Docket No.: 4495-081

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Toshihiro KOBAYASHI

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/518,288

Filed: December 17, 2004

Confirmation No. 6661

For: COMPUTER CASE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME

RESPONSE TO NOTICE TO FILE MISSING PARTS

Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice of Missing Parts of Application dated September 15, 2005, the period for response to which is set to expire on November 15, 2005. Submitted herewith are the following:

- English translation of the application;
- Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts;
- English translation of the amended claims under Article 19;
- English translation of the filed brief statement under PCT Article 19; and
- Petition for Extension of time for three month ($510.00).

Attached hereto is a credit card payment form in the amount of $510.00, which covers the fees for the above listed items. Please charge any deficiencies in the enclosed fees to Deposit Account 07-1337 and direct any inquiries in connection with this application directly to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN & BERNER, LLP

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February 15, 2006

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In re Application of	
Toshihiro KOBAYASHI	Confirmation No. 6661
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For: COMPUTER CASE AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING SAME

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to extend the time for response to the Official Action dated September 15, 2005 for three months from November 15, 2005 to February 15, 2006.

A credit card authorization form to cover the cost of the extension is attached. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No.: 07-1337.

02/17/2006 MKAYPAGH 00000017 10518288
01 FC:2253 510.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: February 15, 2006

KMB:IYR

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/518,288	Toshihiro Kobayashi	4495-081

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	
PCT/JP03/07893	
I.A. FILING DATE	PRIORITY DATE
06/20/2003	

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CONFIRMATION NO. 6661

371 FORMALITIES LETTER

OC000000017002658

Date Mailed: 09/15/2005

NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

The following items have been submitted by the applicant or the IB to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a Designated / Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495).

- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Copy of the International Application filed on 12/17/2004
- Copy of the International Search Report filed on 12/17/2004
- Information Disclosure Statements filed on 12/17/2004
- Oath or Declaration filed on 12/17/2004
- Request for Immediate Examination filed on 12/17/2004
- U.S. Basic National Fees filed on 12/17/2004
- Assignment filed on 12/17/2004
- Priority Documents filed on 12/17/2004

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2005

Lowe, Hauptman, & Berner

DOCKETED BY:
DUE DATE: 11-15-05
MISSING PARTS

The following items **MUST** be furnished within the period set forth below in order to complete the requirements for acceptance under 35 U.S.C. 371:

- Translation of the application into English. Note a processing fee will be required if submitted later than 30 months from the priority date.

ALL OF THE ITEMS SET FORTH ABOVE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN TWO (2) MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR BY 32 MONTHS FROM THE PRIORITY DATE FOR THE APPLICATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER. FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT.

The time period set above may be extended by filing a petition and fee for extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

*A copy of this notice **MUST** be returned with the response.*

KAYA L LEWIS BALTIMORE

Telephone: (703) 308-9140 EXT 202

PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	ATTY. DOCKET NO.
10/518,288	PCT/JP03/07893	4495-081

FORM PCT/DO/EO/905 (371 Formalities Notice)

Claims (Clams 1, 5, 11 and 12 are amended on PCT Article 19)

What is claimed is:

1. (amended) A case for computer having a solid shape formed by a plurality of outer panels assembled together, and into which are installed bays for mounting modules for computer,

comprising at least switches and insertion/removal openings for external storage modules on front side and at least connectors on rear side;;

wherein

(1) the frame members that form outline of the solid shape, comprise,

(a) inner frames that are arranged so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape,

(b) corner parts that are arranged at corners of the inner frames and that connect the adjacent inner frames,

(c) outer frames that bridge the adjacent corner parts and are affixed onto the inner frames,

(2) (a) the inner frames and the corner parts,

(b) the inner frames and the outer frames

are assembled together by using screws, so that the case is easy to disassemble,

(3) the outer panels are removably installed by using screws on outside of the corner pats of the frame members.

2. A case for computer comprising

(1) a first unit case, which has a solid shape into which are installed at least a bay for external storage module and a bay for boards, including a motherboard,

(2) a second unit case, which has a solid shape into which is installed a bay for power module, and

(3) a third unit case, which has a solid shape into which is installed a bay for internal storage module,

wherein

(1) the outer panels are removably installed by using screws on outside of frame members that form outline of each of the solid shape of the first, second, and third unit cases

(2)the frame members comprise,

(a) inner frames that are arranged so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape,

(b) corner parts that are arranged at corners of the inner frames and that connect the adjacent inner frames,

(c) outer frames that bridge the adjacent corner parts and are affixed onto the inner frames,

(3) the inner frames, the corner parts, and the outer frames are assembled by using screws, so that the case is easy to disassemble.

3. A case for computer as described in Claim 2, wherein the second and third unit cases can be affixed onto the rear of the first unit case.

4. A case for computer as described in Claim 2, wherein installing panels — for external storage modules, internal devices such as a motherboard and switches, a power module, and internal storage modules — are installed within the first, second, and third unit cases by using screws, so that said panels can easily be installed and removed.

5. (amended) A case for computer having a solid shape formed by a plurality of outer panels assembled together, and into which are installed bays for mounting modules for computer,

comprising at least switches and insertion/removal openings for external storage modules on front side and at least connectors on rear side;

wherein

(1) the frame members that form outline of the solid shape, comprise

(a) outer frames that are arranged so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape,

(b) corner parts that are arranged at corners of the solid shape and that connect adjacent outer frames,

(3) the outer frames and the corner parts are assembled together by using screws, so that the case is easy to disassemble.

(4) the outer panels are removably installed by using screws on outside of the corner parts of the frame members,

6. A case for computer as described in Claim 5, wherein

a disk-drive bay in which a plurality of large and small disk drives serving as internal and external storage modules can be installed under the condition that they are stacked, with the disk-drive bay comprising:

(1) a pair of left-side and right-side first angle panels that (a) are arranged across two vertically stacked large disk drives and sustain the two drives from their respective sides, and (b) affixed to top face of a bay-fixing panel that is affixed to an outer frame that forms bottom plane of the case,

(2) a plurality pairs of left-side and right-side second angle panels that (a) are

sequentially arranged across adjacent two of a plurality of vertically stacked large disk drives that are placed on the aforementioned upper large hard disk drive, and (b) sustain the two adjacent drives from their respective sides, and

(3) left-side and right-side third angle panels that (a) sustain a small disk drive that is stacked atop the uppermost large disk drive from its respective sides, and (b) are affixed respectively to the left-side and right-side second angle panels that are arranged at the uppermost large disk drive,

and wherein

a plurality of second angle panels that have the same shape as the aforementioned second angle panels, can be installed consecutively (1)by being arranged across vertically adjacent two of a plurality of third left-side and right-side third angle panels that have the same shape as the aforementioned third angle panels, and that sustain one by one a plurality of small disk drives that are stacked successively on the aforementioned small disk drive from their respective sides, and (2) by fixing the two adjacent third angle panels, and

a plurality of aforementioned large and small disk drives are stacked, through (a) the pair of the left-side and right-side first panels, (b) the plurality pairs of the second, left-side and right-side panels, and (c) the left-side and right-side third angle panels, being affixed to the panels by using screws, so that the case is easy to disassemble.

7. A case for computer as described in Claim 6, wherein

(1) the first angle panels

(a) have a fixing flange to be affixed to top face of the bay-fixing panel by using screws, and (b) have flat installing portions that are installed consecutively to the fixing flange and are inflected into L-shaped cross-section and

are arranged across the two vertically adjacent large hard disk drives and are affixed

to the sides of the two drives by using screws,

(2) the second angle panels have flat installing portions that are arranged across the two vertically adjacent large hard disk drives and are affixed to the sides of the two drives by using screws,

(3) the left-side and right-side third angle panels have

(a) flat installing portions that are installed, by using screws, to their respective sides of a small disk drive that is stacked on the uppermost of the stack of large disk drives, and (b) fixed parts that are installed consecutively to the flat installing portions of the third angle panels and are inflected into a crank-shaped cross-section so as to protrude outwards to both left and right sides and that are to be affixed, by using screws, to the flat installing portions of the second left-side and right-side angle panels that are arranged atop the uppermost large disk drives,

and that is such that

(4) the flat installing portions of the second angle panels and the fixed parts of the left-side and right-side third angle panels can be arranged across and connected with vertically adjacent two each other.

8. A case for computer as described in Claim 7, wherein

(1) engagement parts on upper end of the flat installing portions of the first angle panels and lower end of the flat installing portions of the second angle panels so as to fix position at which the first and second panels contact each other, and

(2) other engagement parts on the upper end of the flat installing portions of the second angle panels and the lower end of the flat installing portions of the other second angle panels, which are arranged in such a way that said other second angle panels are adjacent to each other, so as to fix position at which said first and second angle panels contact each other.

9. A case for computer as described in Claim 6, wherein

a disk-drive bay in which at least one of each large and small disk drives can be installed under the condition that they are stacked, with said disk-drive bay comprising

(1) a pair of left-side and right-side first angle panels that sustain the large disk drive(s) from their respective sides, and affixed to bottom face of a bay-fixing panel that is affixed to an outer frame that forms top plane of the case

(2) left-side and right-side third angle panels that (a) hold a small disk drive that is placed at the bottom of the large disk drive from its respective sides, and (b) are affixed respectively to the left-side and right-side first angle panels

(3) the large and small disk drives are stacked, through pairs of said left-side and right-side first and third angle panels, being affixed to the panels by using screws, so that the disk drives can easily be removed.

10. A case for computer as described in Claim 9, wherein

the pair of left-side and right-side first angle panels and left-side and right-side third angle panels as described in Claim 9, with said first angle panels having the same shape as those of the first angle panels in Claim 7 or Claim 8, and said third angle panels having the same shape as the left-side and right-side third angle panels in Claim 7.

11. (amended) A method of manufacturing a case for computer having a solid shape formed by a plurality of outer panels assembled together, and into which are installed bays for mounting modules for computer,

with said method comprising

(1) a first step of assembling frame members that form outline of the solid shape, in such a way that disassembly is easy, by

(a) arranging inner frames so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape,

(b) arranging corner parts at corners of the inner frames,

(c) connecting the adjacent inner frames by using screws,

(d) affixing outer frames onto the inner frames with bridging the adjacent corer parts by using screws, and

(2) a second step of affixing the outer panels to outside of the corner parts of the frame members, by using screws, in a manner that makes the case easy to disassemble.

12. (amended) A method of manufacturing a case for computer having a solid shape into which are installed bays for mounting modules for computer and onto which a plurality of outer panels are affixed,

with said method comprising

(1) a first step of assembling frame members that form outline of the solid shape, in such a way that disassembly is easy, by

(a) arranging outer frames so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape,

(b) arranging corner parts at corners of the outer frames,

(c) connecting the adjacent outer frames by using screws, and

(2) a second step of affixing the outer panels to outside of the corner parts of the frame members, by using screws, in a manner that makes the case easy to disassemble.

Brief Statement based on PCT Article 19

Claims 1 and 11 state that a frame members that form outline of a solid shape, (1) comprise, (a) inner frames that are arranged so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape, (b) corner parts that are arranged at corners of the inner frames and that connect the adjacent inner frames, (c) outer frames that bridge the adjacent corner parts and are affixed onto the inner frames, and (2) (a) the inner frames and the corner parts, (b) the inner frames and the outer frames, are assembled together by using screws, and (3) the outer panels are installed by using screws on outside of the corner pats of the frame members.

Claims 2 and 12 state that

a frame members that form outline of a solid shape, (1) comprise, (a) outer frames that are arranged so as to form outline of each plane of the solid shape, (b) corner parts and that connect the adjacent outer frames, and (2) the outer frames and the corner parts are assembled together by using screws, and (3) the outer panels are installed by using screws on outside of the corner pats of the frame members.

Japan Utility Model No. 3066062 (Reference 1 in the International Search Report as category "Y") refers to a computer-case frame that has been delivered for pre-production testing. That frame is assembled by using joints and tubes and main vertical pillars, and its cover panels and sheets are structured so as to be connected by being inserted, and they can easily become loosened and come apart due to an external force, so that the structure is not suitable for practical use as a computer case.

The computer cases described in Claims 1 and 11and Claims 2 and 12 have structures in such that the frame members and the outer panels are removably connected by using screws, and thus the joined parts do not come apart due to an external force, and therefore that structure is suitable for computer products. In this regard, the present

computer is thus basically different from the computer of Reference 1.

Japan Utility Model No. 3076911 (Reference 2 in the International Search Report as category "Y") refers to a case whose frame is provided with panels, side panels, and a cover. Although the rear panel is attached by using guide grooves, engagement part, and hooks, it is not clear whether that panel is affixed by using screws, by welding, or in some other manner. Moreover, paragraph 0015 of that invention's specification states that the computer is not disassembled for maintenance or when expansion modules are added or removed, and the frame is a monolithic structure unnecessary to take apart.

Therefore, that specification does not include any description relating to the corner parts or to the assembly of the frame member and the outer panels and whether those parts can be disassembled by removing screws, and thus that case differs from the case of the present invention.

Therefore, even combining the references 1 and 2 does not result in the computer case of the present invention, which (1) is compact and lightweight, (2) is assembled in such a way that it is easy to remove all of the computer's modules, (3) can be designed uniquely and freely, and modified flexibly, and (4)) is assembled in such a way that it possible to disassemble the case for transportation, which in turn greatly reduces transportation cost. These points reflect improvements not seen in the prior art described in the above-cited references.